What is claimed is:

Sub A7

1. An audio component system comprising a plurality of components for outputting audio signals, and a signal processing control unit connected to the components, the signal processing control unit comprising a plurality of signal input terminals a to d for receiving audio signals from the components, selector means connected to the signal input terminals for selecting the audio signal received by desired one of the signal input terminals, a signal processing circuit for processing the selected signal as required by an operation including amplification and outputting the resulting audio signal, and a control circuit for changing over the selector means in accordance with a manipulation by the user, the audio component system being characterized in that:

the control circuit of the signal processing control unit and a control circuit of each of the components are connected to each other for communication, the control circuit of the signal processing control unit comprising signal transmitting means for transmitting at a suitable time a call signal to the control circuit of at least one of the components which is to be checked for connection or nonconnection, means for checking whether

an answer signal is received in response to the call signal, and muting means for reducing substantially to zero the sound volume of the audio signal to be output from the signal processing circuit when the audio signal selected by the selector means is from the component not responding with the answer signal, the control circuit of each component comprising signal response means for sending the answer signal to the signal processing control unit in response to the call signal from the control circuit of the signal processing control unit.

2. An audio component system according to claim 1 wherein the signal transmitting means of the control circuit of the signal processing control unit transmits the call signal to the control circuits of all the components when the signal processing control unit is energized.

3. An audio component system according to claim 1 wherein when one of the signal input terminals is selected by the selector means, the signal transmitting means of the control circuit of the signal processing control unit transmits the call signal to the control circuit of the component connected to the selected signal input terminal.

4. An audio component system according to claim 1

wherein the signal transmitting means of the control circuit of the signal processing control unit transmits the call signal to the control circuits of all the components in a predetermined cycle.